

THE
ORATORS.

In which is introduced

THE
TRIAL
OF THE
COCK-LANE GHOST.

and a view of the

Robin-Hood-Society

As it is performed at the Theatres in London
and Dublin.

Written by Mr. FOOTE.

Where more is meant than meets the ear.

IL PENSEROSO.

D U B L I N :

Printed for THOMAS RICHEY, at *Euclid's-*
Head, in *Essex-street*, M,DCC,LXII.

LECTURER,

Mr. Foote,

Mr. Weston,

Mr. Mac George,

Mr. Quin,

Mr. Bannister,

Mr. Williams,

PUPILS,

Mr. Young,

Mr. Booth,

Mr. Palmer,

Mr. Kickill,

Mr. Somers,

Mr. Pearce.

Written by MR. FOOTE.

J. P. F. S. S. S.

DUBLIN.

Printed for THOMAS RICHES, at Enchiridion,
in the Strand, M.DCCCXXXII.



THE
ORATORS.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Enter WILL TIREHACK and HARRY SCAMPER, booted, with Whips in their Hands, into a Side Box.

SCAMPER.

P SHAW! zounds! prithee, Will, let us go; what signifies our staying here?

TIREHACK.

Nay, but tarry a little; besides, you know we promis'd to give Poll Baylifs and Bett Skinner the meeting.

SCAMPER.

No matter, we shall be sure to find them at three at the Shakespear.

TIREHACK.

But as we are here, Harry, let us know a little what it's about?

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SCAM-

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SCAMPER.

About. Why lectures you fool? Have not you read the bills, and we have plenty of them at Oxford, you know?

TIREHACK.

Well, but for all that, there may be fun.

SCAMPER.

Why then, stay and enjoy it yourself; and I'll step to the Bull and Gate, and call upon Jerry Lack-Latin, and my horse. We shall see you at three. *[Rising.]*

TIREHACK.

Nay, but, prithee, stay.

SCAMPER.

Rot me if I do. *[Going out of the box.]*

TIREHACK.

Hollo, Harry; Harry—

SCAMPER.

Well, what's the matter now? *[Returning.]*

TIREHACK.

Here's Poll Baylifs just come into the gallery.

SCAMPER.

No—

TIREHACK.

She is by—

SCAMPER.

[Looking.]

Yes, faith! it is she sure enough.—How goes it, Poll?

TIREHACK.

Well, now, we shall have you, I hope?

SCAMPER.

Ay, if I thought we should get any fun.

TIREHACK.

I'll make an enquiry. Hollo! snuffers, snuffers.

CANDLE SNUFFER.

Your pleasure, Sir?

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TIREHACK.

What is all this business about here?

SNUFFER.

Can't say, Sir.

SCAMPER.

Well, but, you could if you would, let us into the secret.

SNUFFER.

Not I, upon my honour!

TIREHACK.

Your honour, you son of a whore! D'ye hear, bid your master come hither, we want to ask him a question?

SNUFFER.

I will—

[Exit.

TIREHACK.

Scamper, will you ask him, or shall I?

SCAMPER.

Let me alone to him—

Enter FOOTE.

TIREHACK.

O! here he is—

FOOTE.

Your commands with me, gentlemen?

SCAMPER.

Why, you must know Will and I here, are upon a scheme from Oxford; and because cash begins to run low—How much have you, Will?

TIREHACK.

Three and twenty shillings, besides the crown I paid at the door.

SCAMPER.

And I eighteen; now, as this will last us but

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but to-night, we are willing to husband our time ; let us see Will, how are we engag'd ?

TIRE HACK.

Why at three, with Bett and Poll, there, at the Shakespear ; after that to the Coronation ; for you know we have seen it but nine times—

SCAMPER.

And then back to the Shakespear again ; where we sup, and take horse at the door.

TIRE HACK.

So there's no time to be lost, you see ; we desire, therefore, to know what sort of a thing this affair here of yours is ? What, is it damn'd funny and comical ?

FOOTE.

Have you not seen the bills ?

SCAMPER.

What about lectures ; ay, but that's all slang, I suppose ; no, no. No tricks upon travellers ; no, we know better—What, are there any more of you ; or do you it all yourself ?

FOOTE.

If I was in want of comedians, you, gentlemen, are kind enough to lend me a list ; but, upon my word, my intentions, as the bill will inform you, are serious—

TIRE HACK.

Are they ? then I'll have my money again. What, do you think we come to London to learn any thing ?—Come, Will. [Going.

FOOTE.

Hold, gentlemen, I would detain you, if possible. What is it you expect ?

SCAMPER.

To be jolly, and laugh, to be sure—

FOOTE.

At what ?

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TIREHACK.

At what—damme, I don't know—at you,
and your frolicks and fancies—

FOOTE.

If that is all you desire; why, perhaps we
shan't disappoint you—

SCAMPER.

Shan't you—why, that is an honest fellow—
come, begin—

FOOTE.

But you'll be so kind as not to interrupt me?

SCAMPER.

Never fear—

FOOTE.

Ladies and gentlemen—

[Suds from the opposite box calls to Foote,
and stops him short.]

SUDS.

Stop a minute; may I be permitted to speak?

FOOTE.

Doubtless, Sir—

SUDS.

Why the affair is this. My wife Alice—for
you must know my name is Ephraim Suds, I
am a soap-boiler in the city, took it into her
head, and nothing would serve her turn, but
that I must be a common-council man this
year; for says Alice, *says she*, It is the *onliest*
way to rise in the world.

FOOTE.

A just objervation—you succeeded?

SUDS.

Oh! there was no danger of that—yes, yes,
I got it all hollow; but now to come to the
marrow of the business. Well, Alice, says I,
now I am chosen, what's next to be done?
Why now, says Alice, *says she*, thee must
learn

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' learn to make speeches ; why dost not see
' what purferment neighbour Grogam has
' got ; why man 'tis all brought about by his
' *speechifying*. I tell thee what, Ephraim, if
' thee can'st but once learn to lay down the
' law, there's no knowing to what thee may'st
' rise—'.

FOOTE.

Your lady had reason.

SUDS.

Why, I thought so too ; and, as good luck
would have it, who should come into the city,
in the very nick of time, but master professor
along with his lectures—Adod, away in a
hurry, Alice and I danced to Pewterers Hall.

FOOTE.

You improv'd, I hope ?

SUDS.

O Lud ! It is unknown what knowledge we
got ; we can read—oh ! we never stop to spell
a word now—and then he told us such things
about verbs, and nouns, and adverbs, that ne-
ver entered our heads before, and *empharis*,
and *accent* ; heav'n bless us, I did not think
there had been such things in the world.

FOOTE.

And have you *speechify'd* yet ?

SUDS.

Soft ; soft and fair ; we must walk before
we can run—I think I have laid a pretty foun-
dation. The Mansion-house was not built in
a day, Master Foote. But to go on with my
tale, my dame one day looking over the pa-
pers, came running to me ; now Ephraim,
says she, thy business is done, rare news, lad ;
here is a man at the other end of the town,
that will make thee a *speaker* at once, and

out

out she pull'd your proposals. Ah Alice, says I, thee be'st but a fool, why I know that man, he is all upon his fun, he lectures—why, 'tis all but a bam—well, 'tis but seeing, says she, so *wolens nolens*, she would have me come hither; now if so be you be serious, I shall think my money wisely bestow'd; but if it be only your comical works, I can tell you, you shall see me no more.

F O O T E.

Sir, I should be extremely sorry to lose you; If I knew but what would content you?

S U D S.

Why, I want to be made an orator *on*; and to speak speeches, as I tell you, at our meetings, about politicks, and peace, and addreses, and the new bridge, and all *them* kind of things.

F O O T E.

Why, with your happy talents I should think much might be done.

S U D S.

I am proud to hear you say so. Indeed I am, I did *speechify* once at a vestry concerning new lettering the church buckets, and came off cutely enough; and to say the truth, that was the thing that provok'd me to go to Pew-terers-Hall.

(*Sits down again.*)

F O O T E.

Well, Sir, I flatter myself, that in proportion to the difference of abilities in your two instructors, you will here make a tolerable progress. But now, Sir, with your favour, we will proceed to explain the nature of our design, and I hope in the process, you, gentlemen, will find entertainment, and you, Sir, information.

Mr.

TO THE ORATORS.

Mr. Foote then proceeds to his lecture.

My plan, gentlemen, is to be consider'd as a superstructure on that admirable foundation laid by the modern professor of English, both our labours tending to the same general end; the perfectioning of our countrymen in a most essential article, the right use of their native language.

But what he has happily begun, I have the vanity to think I have as happily finish'd; he has, it is true, introduc'd you into the body of the church, but I conduct you into the choir of the cathedral: Or, to explain myself by a more familiar allusion, tho' he is the Poitier who teaches you the step and the grounds; yet I am the Gallini who gives you the air, and the grace of the minuet.

His aim is propriety alone; mine propriety with elegance.

For tho' reading, so shamefully neglected, not only by those of tender years, but the adult; not only by children, but even by grown men and women; not only in our private seminaries, but in our publick universities, is allowed to be a necessary ingredient towards the formation of an orator; yet, a great many other rules, a great many other precepts, are requisite to obtain his perfection.

Nay, perhaps we might, to support an argument without the danger of a defeat, at least if we may trust observation, that of all the professions that require a verbal intercourse with the public, there is no one to whom reading is of so little utility as that of oratory.

I need

I need not insist upon this head, as I believe every gentleman; experience will furnish him with instances of men eminent in oratory, who, from an early vivacity, have neglected, or the indulgence of their parents have been emancipated from the attention and application necessary, it is true, to acquire this rugged art; but at the same time so ill-suited to their tender years, and so opposite to those innocent amusements in which children are known universally to delight. *Thwart not a child, for you spoil his temper*;—is, or at least ought to be, an English proverb, as it is an universal practice.

I would not here be understood to depreciate the usefulness of reading, or to detract from the exceeding merit of the professor's plan; no, my meaning is only just to drop a hint that I may occasionally use him as a walking-stick; a kind of an *elegantly clouded Mocoa*, or an *airy Anamahoo*: yet, that it is by no means my intention to depend upon him as a *support*, or lean upon him as a *crutch*; in a word, he will be rather ornamental than necessary to me.

But useless as his plan is to me, I sincerely wish it success for the sake of the public; and if my influence was equal to my inclination, I would have a law enacted, upon the plan of the militia bill, that annually, or biennially, draughts should be made from every parish of two, three, or more, as in that act of able bodied, so in this of intelligent persons, who, at the expence of the several counties, should be sent to the capital, and there compelled to go thro' as many courses of the professor's lectures as he shall deem sufficient: thus, by
those

those periodical rural detachments, the whole nation will in a few years be compleatly served and a stock of learning laid in that will last 'till time shall be no more.

Would our rulers but adopt this scheme! how superior would England be even to the most illustrious periods of Greece and Rome! what an unrival'd happiness for us, what an eternal fund of fame for them! ye Solons, ye Lycurguses, ye Numas hide your diminish'd heads, see what a revolution two laws in a few years have produc'd, see a whole people sunk in more than Gothic ignorance, accusom'd to no other iron implements than the pacific plough-shear, or the harmless spade, start out at once profound scholars and veteran soldiers: If at this happy period, a Frenchman thinking any thing out of his own country worthy his attention should condescend to pay this kingdom a visit; methinks, I anticipate the account he will give of us at his return, (like his countryman of old, who at the taking of Rome, bursting into the capitol, and there finding the senate fix'd and immoveable in their seats, declar'd them an assembly of kings), so will he at once pronounce the whole British nation to be an army of generals, and one congregation of doctors. Happy country! where the *Arma* & *Toga* are so fortunately blended, as to prevent all contention for the pre-eminence.

I know but one objection that can be made to this plan, and that merely a temporary one; that the culture of our lands will sustain an infinite injury, if such a number of peasants were to deparochiate, there being already scarce hands sufficient, from the recruits constantly made for Germany, &c. &c. &c. to

carry

carry on the common business of husbandry.

But what are riches, perishable commodities, glittering, transitory, fallacious goods, when compar'd to the substantial incorruptible endowments of the mind: this truth is indeed happily inculcated by an old English adage;

When lands and goods are gone and spent,
Then learning is most excellent.

This sensible and poetical distich, I would recommend to Mr. Professor, as a motto for his intended treatise; but I suppose he is already well provided with an apt *Latin*, if not a *Greek* one, to either of which I must yield the preference.

But to wave this ethical argument. I think I can easily foil the force of this objection, by a natural and obvious *Succedaneum*. Suppose a clause was to be added to the bill for the importation of tallow, raw hides, and live cattle from Ireland, that during this literary emigration, a sufficient number of inhabitants of that country may be transported hither to supply the vacancy; but here it must be observ'd, that for this purpose an act of parliament is indispensably necessary; for tho' it would be difficult, if not impossible for us in our present condition, to get in even our harvests, without the aid of hands annually exported for that purpose from Ireland; yet this is at best but an illicit trade, and the men themselves are to be consider'd under the article of smuggled goods: a very heavy penalty being laid by statute on all masters of vessels, who shall venture to import any of the above cited commodity into this realm, without special licence;

cence; to this purpose I recollect a case in point, the fifth of William and Mary, Ban. Reg. The king contra Oflaarty. Vide V. Rep. vol. 3. chap. 9. page 4.

But if this should be thought by the people in power too great an indulgence to the Irish, as we have never been remarkably profuse in our favours to our loyal and affectionate sister; I see no other method of redressing the imaginary evil, than by exempting from this service all the males 'till a general peace, and accepting in their room, a suitable number of discreet middle aged females; and these, when they have been properly perfected in the mysteries of our language, may be return'd to their several parishes, and there form little infantine communities of literati, which will be a stock for the succeeding generation; and indeed upon consideration, I don't know whether this won't prove the best method for the introduction and universal propagation of the plan.

For the English common people, naturally fullen and obstinate, and religiously attach'd to their old customs, might be shock'd and scandaliz'd to see at one bold stroke, the fescues, and fasces, which have been from time immemorial consign'd to one, or more matron in every village, ravish'd at once from their hands, and deliver'd over to the administration of the opposite sex.

But to return to my own subject, from which my zeal for Mr. Professor's success, has tempted me to make rather too long a digression.

When I ventur'd to affirm that the profession of an orator, might exist independently of an accurate knowledge of the arrangement, and
different

different combinations of the four and twenty letters, so far as (*in the words of the Professor*), they relate to their being the arbitrary marks of meaning upon paper; yet, I would not be understood to assert this generally, as to every species of oratory, but to confine myself to those particular branches, only where the orator's own mind suggests the matter that his own mouth discharges: For instance, now, as when affairs of state are weigh'd at a common-council, religious points militated at the Robin-hood, the arts and sciences handled in the Strand, or politicks debated near Westminster-abbey; here the arguments, and words given are suppos'd to arise from the immediate impulse of the giver; but where there are concurrent agents, as in the oratory peculiar to the pulpit, and the stage, where one individual furnishes the matter and another administers the manner, the case is widely different.

In the first instance, a tolerable proficiency in reading is indispensably requisite, as scarce any memory but the late Mr. Heydigger's could retain to any degree of certainty, the various parts of the liturgy, the old, and new testament, briefs, faculties, excommunications, &c. &c. &c. and a lapse on those solemn occasions might be attended with very awkward circumstances: nor would I here be suppos'd to insinuate, that the pieces of oratory deliver'd from the pulpit, are not the composition of the deliverer, no—This is so far from being generally the case, that I have often heard complaints made against particular agents, that they have forc'd upon their congregations their own crude, and insipid productions when at

the same time, their native language would furnish them with so extensive, and noble collection of admirable materials. But here the auditor, unless he be well read in theology, may be led into a mistake; for there are some men, who, by a particular happiness in their manner, have the address to make the works of other men so absolutely their own, that there is no distinguishing the difference; at this the poet hints in his *male dum recitas*, &c. For these various reasons, I think a warm application to the art of reading, cannot be too strongly recommended to the professors of this kind of oratory.

With regard to the professors of the stage, tho' reading is undoubtedly useful, yet, as the performer is to repeat, and not to read, the deficiency may be supply'd by the introduction of a third agent, viz. a person to read to him 'till the words are rooted in his memory. This expedient, tho' tedious, I have known frequently practis'd with good success: little blunders will now and then unavoidably arise, either from the misapprehension of the second agent, or the ignorance, or waggery of the third; but these slips are generally unobserv'd, or thro' inattention, or indulgence, overlook'd by an audience. But to return to the consideration of my own plan, from which, no temptation shall for the future seduce me to digress.

We will first, then, consider the utility of oratory.

Secondly, the distinct and various kinds, or species of that science, as they are practis'd at this day in this kingdom.

Thirdly, we will demonstrate that every branch of English oratory is peculiarly our own,

own, owes its rise, progress, and perfection to this country, and was not only unknown to the antients, but is entirely repugnant to all those principles they have endeavour'd to establish.

Fourthly, that any rhetorical system now existing, instead of a cross in the hands, with letters to direct you on your road, will prove only, but a Will in the Wisp to confound, perplex, and bewilder you.

Fifthly, from hence will result a necessity, for the immediate establishment of an academy, for the promulgation and inculcation of modern oratory.

To which academy, the author of these proposals, does hope, sixthly, that he shall be appointed perpetual professor.

Perhaps, it may not be impertinent here to observe, that the author has industriously avoided, and will in the course of this treatise avoid all poetical allusion; all grandeur of expression, all splendor of diction, in short, renounce every rhetorical prop, as knowing that on didactic subjects, order, simplicity, and perspicuity are the means to gain his end, which is not to gratify the imagination, but to improve and polish the understanding of my countrymen.

First, then, we are to demonstrate the utility of oratory: and, this we flatter ourselves will, in a great measure be evident from the consideration of its universality, and the distinctions it procures, both lucrative and honourable, to any man eminent in the art.

There is, by the constitution of this kingdom, an assembly of many individuals, who, as the seventh son of a seventh son, is born

a physician, are orators by hereditary right; that is, by birth they are enabled to give their opinions, and sentiments on all subjects, where the interest of their country is concern'd : To this, we are to add another assembly, consisting of 558 individuals, where, tho' the same privilege is enjoy'd as in the first instance ; yet this advantage is not possess'd in virtue of any inherent natural right, but is obtain'd in consequence of an annual, triennial, or septennial deputation from the whole body of the people ; if then we add to this list the number of all those candidates who are ambitious of this honour, with the infinite variety of changes that a revolution of twenty years will produce, we cannot estimate those funds of national orators in *esse*, *posse*, and *velle*, to a smaller quantity than 20,000 ; and this, I believe, by the disciples of Demoivre, will be thought a very moderate computation.

The two orders of the long robe next demand our attention ; and as the pre-eminence is unquestionably due to the priesthood, let us consider what number of persons is necessary to supply that service ? England is divided into nine thousand and nine hundred and thirteen parishes : now, if we suppose two pastors for every parish, this learned body will be found to consist of nineteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-six individuals ; but as the most sacred characters are no more exempted from the fatal stroke that puts a temporary period to our existence, than the prophane, it is necessary that a provision should be made of fit and able persons ; so that at all events there be no lack of labourers in this plentiful vineyard ; nor has the policy of this nation been so blinded

as not to guard against this possible contingency, by erecting schools, seminaries, and universities, in which a convenient quantity of our youth are properly trained, in order to fill up chasms which may be occasionally made by the insatiable scythe of death. If then we estimate this corps de reserve at the half only of the standing force, we shall find the army entire amount to 29, 739.

I foresee that the objection will be made to this calculation, viz. That two pastors to every parish is a most exorbitant and improbable charge; for that many parishes, from impropriations, appropriations, and other accidents, instead of two are scarce able to support one pastor; and that this complaint is almost general throughout the whole principality of Wales, where many individuals of this respectable order, to the great damage of their dignity, are oblig'd to have recourse to very unclerical professions for the support of themselves and families.

This objection we will allow its full force; but then if it be consider'd that in our original estimate we omitted all deans, canons, prebends, heads and fellows of colleges, chaplains to ships, regiments, and private families, together with the whole body of dissenting ministers of all denominations, field-preachers and parish-clarks, I believe we shall be thought rather to have diminished than exaggerated the real quantity.

As I have not been able to get admittance to the archives of the several inns of court in this metropolis, I am afraid we shall not be able to determine with the same degree of certainty, the exact number of those who have devoted

devoted their lives and labors to the explanation and due execution of our municipal laws: I am therefore obliged to depend on circumstantial evidence, which in some cases is admitted even in our courts to have equal force with proof positive.

And here the reason of the law (as the law is the perfection of reason) is extremely clear. To illustrate this by an instance.

A. swears a robbery against *B.* *A.* may lye, or at least be mistaken; but if the goods stolen from *A.* and previously described by him, are found with their mark in the possession of *B.* *B.* not being able to account for such possession, that circumstance shall be deem'd of at least equal weight against *B.* as if *A.* was to swear positively to the personal identity of *B.* This being the practice of the courts, we shall proceed with all possible expedition (which indeed is not the practice of the courts) to produce our proofs circumstantial. As in the former instance we have grounded our calculation on the number of parishes, we shall in this derive our computation from the number of houses in the kingdom.

To any man tolerably acquainted with the country of England it is unnecessary to observe that not only in every town, but almost in every hamlet thro' which he travels, his eyes are constantly caught by the appearance of a smart house, prefac'd with white rails and prologu'd by a red door with a brass knocker; when you desire to be acquainted with the name and quality of the owner of this mansion, you are always told that it belongs to lawyer such a one: now, if a hamlet containing thirty houses, with perhaps an environ of an equal number, where

where labour and the fruits of the earth are the only sources of wealth, can support one attorney in this rural magnificence; what an infinite number of lawyers can a commercial capital sustain? But because I would rather retrench than exceed, I will only quarter one attorney upon fifty houses. The number of houses in the reign of George the First (since which time the quantity is considerably encreas'd) was computed at 1,175,951. The number of attorneys then will be 23,518, and if we reckon one barrister to twenty attorneys, the sum total is 24,693.

I know it will be here objected that but one small part of this numerous body can be benefited by my plan, the privilege of speaking publickly being permitted to the superior order, the barristers alone: but this criticism is confin'd to the observation of what passes merely in Westminster-Hall, without considering that, at every quarter and petty session at all country-courts, courts-leets, courts-baron, &c. &c. &c. full power of pleading is permitted to every practitioner of the law.

As the number of those who incorporate themselves to promote, not only with their cash but their counsel, the progress of the arts and sciences, is unlimited, it will be impossible for any fix'd period to ascertain their quantity: nor can we, with any certainty, as the Court-Register has been silent to the members of common-council, determine the amount of the city orators; besides, as what has been already offered is more than sufficient to prove the utility of our scheme from its universality, we shall not trouble our readers nor ourselves with any further calculations; for tho' they
are

are replete with great depth of knowledge, are the result of intense application, and the vehicles of mathematical truths, yet to the million the disquisition is but dry and tedious, and our purpose always was and is to mix with our instruction, a proper portion of delectation.

We will therefore, for these reasons, hasten to the consideration of the second point propos'd, viz. An enquiry into the various kinds of oratory now existing in this country. And we shall not, on this occasion, trouble ourselves with the investigation of all the smaller branches of this art; but, like the professors in anatomy, contenting ourselves with the dissection of the noble parts, remit the examination of the ignoble ones to the care of subaltern artists. Leaving, then, to the minute philosophers of the age all the orators of vestries, clubs, and coffee-houses, *Paulo majora canamus*, and for the better illustration of this head, permit me, reader, to be a little fanciful. We will suppose oratory to be one large tree, of which tree science is the *radix*; eloquence the trunk; from which trunk sprout four distinct ramifications; from which ramifications depends a fruit peculiar to each.

But here, reader, let me not arrogate to myself the merit of this happy explication; I own the hint was first given me with my Grammar. The ingenious, profound Lilly, after he has led his pupils thro' the various, and almost impervious provinces of nouns, pronouns, verbs, participles, and adverbs, conducts them to the foot of that arduous and stupendous mountain *Qui Mibi*: here dreading lest his youthful ardour might be dampt with the steep ascent, he re-animates his slacken'd nerves with the

the myſtick picture of an apple-tree, the acceſs to whoſe boughs, tho' tedious and difficult, will yet be amply rewarded by leave to revel uncontroul'd thro' the whole region of pepins. May the luſcious fruit ſprouting from the apex of each of my ramifications prove an equal ſpur to every beardless orator.

I don't know whether the mentioning another order of orators, as they are not at preſent exiſting in this kingdom, may not be deemed an impropriety. But as I am a ſincere lover of my country, I can't help recommending an immediate importation of ſome of thoſe uſeful and able artiſts. Sir William Temple, in his Eſſay on Poetry, has recorded their virtues; and as the race was not extinguished in his time, it is to be hoped that it ſtill remains.

In Ireland, ſays Sir William, the great men of their ſcepts, amongſt many officers of their family, had not only a phyſician, a huntsman, a ſmith, and ſuch like, but a poet and tale-teller.

The firſt recorded and ſung the actions of their anceſtors, and entertained the company at feaſts. The latter amused them with tales when they were melancholy and could not ſleep; and a very gallant gentleman has told me of his own experience, that in his wolf-hunting there, when he us'd to be abroad in the mountains three or four days together, and lay very ill at nights, ſo as he could not well ſleep, they would bring one of thoſe tale-tellers, that when he lay down would begin a ſtory of a king, or a giant, a dwarf and a damſel, and continue all night long in ſuch an even tone that you heard him going on whenever you awakened. And he believ'd nothing
any

any physicians could give had so good and so innocent an effect to make men sleep in any pains or distempers of body or mind. These are Sir William Temple's words, which contain an amazing instance of the power of those orators over the passions, it requiring full as much art and address to assuage and quell, as to blow up, and excite a tumult in the mind.

In a bill not long since depending in parliament for the better regulating the city-watch, a clause was recommended by a late respectable magistrate, that to prevent the watchmen from sleeping at nights on bulks (the source of many disorders) the said watchmen should be compelled to sleep six hours in the day; an arch member seconded the motion, and begg'd to be included in this clause, for that being grievously afflicted with the gout, he could not for many days sleep a single wink; now if he could be compelled to take a six hours sleep every day, he apprehended that his fits would be of a much shorter duration. Upon this dry comment the motion was rashly rejected; but if the house had received the least intimation of the astonishing abilities of the Rockers (for by that appellation I choose to distinguish this order of orators) I am convinced that the above clause would not only have been receiv'd, but that proper encouragement would have been given by parliament for the introduction and establishment of this useful oratorical sect.

Nor, indeed, considering the vast addition to our customary cares, from the unaccountable fluctuation of our funds, the cause of concern to many thousand individuals, do I think a visit from a convenient quantity of those

those artists would be now out of season ; but how this honour is to be obtain'd, whether any of these great men are now residing amongst us, under the disguise of chairmen and hackney coachmen ? or, whether it would not be more adviseable to employ those gentlemen, who have so lately and successfully rummaged the Highlands of Scotland and Ireland for the remains of Runic poetry in search of the ablest professors, is submitted to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts ?

I am aware that on this occasion some arch wag, possess'd of the same spirit with the above senator, will object to my scheme of importation, by alledging, that we have of our own growth, an ample provision of rockers, and refers us for proof to our several churches and chapels, during the hours of eleven and two on a Sunday, where the sleep-compelling power, will be experimentally demonstrated to exist in its full force amongst us ; but not to derogate from the abilities of my countrymen, surely the shortness of the time, the cause of the nap, rarely continuing above fifteen or sixteen minutes, will not admit of a proper experiment : besides, how can one orator supply a whole parish, unless, indeed, our churches were to be converted into dormitories, which I can't think will happen, as this would be attended with inconveniencies too obvious to need a recital.

Abstracted from this last order, the English orators are to be divided into four distinct classes, the pulpit, the senate, the bar, and the stage ; with the first of these branches, the pulpit, I shan't interfere, and indeed, so few people now of consequence and consideration

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frequent she churches, that the art is scarce worth cultivation. The bar—

SCAMPER.

Pshaw! there's enough of this dull profling; come give us a little of something that's funny; you talk'd about pupils. Could not we see them?

FOOTE.

Rather too precipitate, Sir; but however, in some measure to satisfy you, and demonstrate the success of our scheme; give me leave to introduce to you a most extraordinary instance, in the person of a young highlander. It is not altogether a year since this astonishing subject, spoke nothing but Erse. Encourag'd by the prodigies of my brother professor's skill, whose fame like the chevalier Taylor's, pierces the remotest regions, his relations were tempted to send this young genius to Edinburgh; where he went thro' a regular course of the professor's lectures, to finish his studies; he has been about six weeks under my care, and considering the time, I think you will be amaz'd at his progress. Donald.—

Enter DONALD.

What's yer wull, Sir?

FOOTE.

Will you give these ladies and gentlemen a proof of your skill?

DONALD.

Ah, ye wad ha' a specimen of my oratorical art.

FOOTE

FOOTE.

If you please.

DONALD.

In gude troth on ye sal; wol ye gi me a
topick?

FOOTE.

O! chuse for yourself.

DONALD.

It's aw one to Donald.

FOOTE.

What think you of a short panegyrick on
the science we are treating of.

DONALD.

On oratory; wi aw my heart.

FOOTE.

Mind your action; let that accompany your
words——

DONALD.

Dunna heed man——The topick I presum
to haundle, is the miraculous gifts of an orator,
wha, by the bare power of his words, he leads
men, women, and bairns as he lists——

SCAMPER.

And who?

DONALD.

[*Tartly.*

Men, women, and bairns.

SCAMPER.

Bairns ; who are they ?

FOOTE.

Oh ! children——his meaning is obvious enough.

DONALD.

Ay, ay ; men, women, and bairns wherever he lists ; and first for the antiquity of the art—ken ye, my lads, wha was the first orator ?——mayhap, ye think it was Tully the Latinist, ye are wide o'the mark ; or Demosthenes the Greek ? In gude troth, ye're as far off as before——Wha was it then ? it was e'en that arch-chiel, the Deevil himsel——

SCAMPER. [*Hastily.*

The devil it was ; how do you prove that ?

DONALD.

Guds zounds, mon, ye brake the thrid of my harang ; an ye'll but had yer tongue, I'll prove it as plain as a pike-staff.

TIREHACK.

Be quiet, Will, and let him go on.

DONALD.

I say it was that arch-chiel, the Deevil himsel. Ye ken weel, my lads, how Adam and Eve were planted in Eden, wi plenty o' bannocks and cail, and aw that they wish'd, but were prohibited the eating of pepins.——

SCAM-

SCAMPER.

Apples——

DONALD.

Weel, weel, and are na pepins an apples,
aw the same thing?

FOOTE.

Nay, pray, gentlemen; hear him out. Go
on with your pepins.——

DONALD.

Prohibited the eating of pepins; upon which
what does me the orator Satan, but he whif-
pers a fast speech in her lug, egad our gran-
num fell to in an instant, and eat a pepin with-
out staving to pare it——(*addresses himself to the*
Oxonians) ken ye lads, wha was the first ora-
tor now?

TIREHACK. *To Scamper.*

What say you to that?

SCAMPER.

By my soul the fellow's right——

DONALD.

Ay, but ye wan'na ha patience---ye wan'na
ha patience, lads——

TIREHACK.

Hold your jaw, and go on——

DONALD.

Now, we come to the definition of an ora-
tor; and it is from the latin words *oro, orare,*

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to intreat, or perswad ; and how, by the means
o' elocution, or argument, which argument
consists o' letters, which letters join'd mak syllables,
which syllables compounded mak words,
which words combin'd mak sentences, or periods,
or which aw together mak an orator,
so the first gift of an orator is words——

SCAMPER.

Here, Donald, you are out——

DONALD.

How so ?

SCAMPER.

Words, the first gift of an orator ! No, Donald, no, at school I learn'd better than that :
do'st not remember, Will, what is the first perfection of an orator ? action. The second,
action. The third, action.

TIREHACK.

Right, right, Harry, as right as my nail ;
there, Donald, I think he has given you a dose——

DONALD.

An ye stay me, i' the midst o' my argument——

SCAMPER.

Why don't you stick to truth ?

DONALD.

I tell ye, I can *logically*.——

TIRE.

TIREHACK.

Damn your logick——

DONALD.

Mighty weel——Master Foote, how ca ye
this usage?

FOOTE.

Oh, never mind them——proceed.

DONALD.

In gude troth, I'se nat say nay ane ward mare.

FOOTE.

Finish, finish, Donald.—

DONALD.

Ah ! they have jumbled aw my ideas together ; but an they wall enter into a fair argumentation, I'se convince 'em that Donald Macgregor is mare than a match.—

SCAMPER.

You be——

DONALD.

Very weel——

FOOTE.

Nay, but my dear Donald——

DONALD.

Hands aff, Maister Foote—I ha finish'd my tale, the De'el a word mare sal ye get out o' Donald—yer servant, Sir. *(Exit.*

FOOTE.

FOOTE.

You see, gentlemen, what your impatience has lost us.

SCAMPER.

Rot him, let him go ; but is this fellow one of your *pupils*, why, what a damnable twang he has got, with his men, women, and bairns.—

FOOTE.

His pronunciation is I own a little irregular ; but then consider he is but merely a novice ; why, even in his present condition, he makes no bad figure for his five minutes at the *Robin-hood* ; and in a month or two, we shan't be asham'd to start him in a more *respectable place*.

But now, gentlemen, we are to descend to the peculiar essential qualities of each distinct species of oratory ; and first for the bar——but as no didactic rules can so well convey, or words make a proper impression, we will have recourse to more palpable means, and endeavour, by a lively imitation, to demonstrate the extent of our art. We must, for this end, employ the aid of our pupils ; but as some preparation is necessary, we hope you will indulge us in a short interruption.



A C T II.

SCENE, *A Hall of Justice.**Enter* FOOTE.

THE first species of oratory we are to demonstrate our skill in, is that of the bar ; and, in order to give our lecture an air of reality, you are to suppose this a Court of justice, furnish'd with proper Ministers to discharge the necessary functions. But, to supply these gentlemen with business, we must likewise institute an imaginary cause ; and, that the whole may be ideal, let it be the prosecution of an imaginary being ; I mean the phantom of Cock-lane, a phænomenon that has much puzzl'd the brains, and terrify'd the minds of many of our fellow-subjects.

We are to consider, ladies and gentlemen, that the language of the bar is a species of oratory distinct from every other. It has been observ'd that the ornaments of this profession have not shun with equal lustre in an assembly near their own Hall ; the reason assign'd, tho' a pleasant, is not the true *one*. It has been hinted that these gentlemen were in want of their briefs ; but was that the disease, the remedy would be easy enough : they need only have recourse to the *artifice* successfully practis'd by some of their colleagues ; instead of
having

having their briefs in their hands, to hide them at the bottom of their hats.

[*Calls to his pupils, who enter'd dress'd as a justice, a clerk, a serjeant at law, and a counsellor.*]

You will remember, Gentlemen, your proper pauses, repetitions, hums, has, and interjections: now seat yourselves, and you the counsel remember to be mighty dull, and you the justice to fall asleep. I must prepare to appear in this cause as a witness. *(Exit.*

JUSTICE.

Clerk, read the indictment.

CLERK. *Reads.*

Middlesex, to wit.

Fanny Phantom, you are indicted, That on or before the first day of January 1762, you, the said Fanny, did, in a certain house, in a certain street, call'd Cock-lane, in the county of Middlesex, maliciously, treacherously, wickedly, and wilfully, by certain thumpings, knockings, scratchings, and flutterings against doors, walls, wainscots, bedsteads, and bedposts, disturb, annoy, assault, and terrify divers innocent, inoffensive, harmless, quiet, simple people, residing, in, at, near, or about the said Cock-lane, and elsewhere, in the said county of Middlesex, to the great prejudice of said people in said county. How say you, guilty, or——

COUNSELLOR *stops the Clerk short.*

May it please your worship—hem——I am counsel in this cause for the ghost—hem——and before I can permit her to plead, I have an objection to make, that is—hem—I shall object

ject to her pleading at all.—hem—it is the standing law of this country—hem—and has—hem—always been so allow'd, deem'd, and practis'd that—hem—all criminals should be try'd *per pares*, by their equals—hem—that is—hem—by a jury of equal rank with themselves. Now, if this be the case, as the case it is; I—hem—I should be glad to know, how my client can be try'd in this here manner. And first, who is my client? She is in the indictment call'd a phantom, a ghost; what is a ghost? a spirit. What is a spirit? a spirit is a thing that exists independently of, and is superior to flesh and blood. And can any man go for to think, that I can advise my client to submit to be try'd by people of an inferior rank to herself? certainly no—I therefore, humbly move to quash this indictment, unless a jury of ghosts be first had, and obtain'd, unless a jury of ghosts be first had and obtain'd.

Sits down.]

SER JEANT.

I am, in this cause, Counsel against Fanny Phantom the ghost;—eh,—and notwithstanding the rule laid down by Mr. Prosecut, be—eh—right in the main, yet here it can't avail his client a whit. We allow—eh—we do allow, please your worship, that Fanny *quoad* Phantom,—eh—had originally a right to a jury of ghosts; but—eh—if she did, by any act of her own, forfeit this right, her plea cannot be admitted. Now, we can prove, please your worship, prove by a cloud of witnesses, that said Fanny did, as specified in the indictment, scratch, knock and flutter;—eh—which said scratchings, knockings, and flutterings

terings—eh—being operations, merely peculiar to flesh, blood, and body—eh—we do humbly apprehend—eh—that by condescending to execute the aforesaid operations, she has wav'd her privilege as a ghost, and may be try'd in the ordinary form, according to the statute so made, and provided in the reign of &c. &c. &c.

Your worship's opinion?

TIREHACK.

Smoke the justice, he is as fast as a church.

SCAMPER.

I fancy he has touch'd the tankard too-much this morning; he'll know a good deal of what they have been saying.

JUSTICE.

[Is wak'd by the Clerk, who tells him they have pleaded.]

Why the objection—oh—brought by Mr. Prosequi, is (*whispers the Clerk*) doubtless provisionally a valid objection; but then, if the culprit has, by an act of her own, defeated her privilege, as asserted in Mr. Serjeant's replication; we conceive she may be legally try'd—oh,—besides—oh,—besides, I, I, I can't well see how we could impanel a jury of ghosts; or—oh—how twelve spirits, who have no body at all, can be said to take a corporal oath, as requir'd by law—unless, indeed, as in case of the peerage, the prisoner may be try'd on their honour.

COUNSELLOR.

Your worship's distinction is just; knockings, scratchings, &c. as asserted by Mr. Serjeant.—

SER-

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SERJEANT.

Afferted—Sir, do you doubt my instructions ?

COUNSELLOR.

No interruptions, if you please, Mr. Serjeant ; I say as asserted, but can assertions be admitted as proofs ; certainly no——

SERJEANT.

Our evidence is ready——

COUNSELLOR.

To that we object, to that we object, as it will anticipate the merits—your worship—

SERJEANT.

Your worship——

JUSTICE.

Why as you impeach the ghost's privilege, you must produce proofs of her scratchings.

SERJEANT.

Call Shadrach Bodkin.

CLERK.

Shadrach Bodkin come into court.

SERJEANT. [*Enter Bodkin.*

Pray, Mr. Bodkin, where do you live ?

BODKIN.

I sojourn in Lukener's-lane.

SERJEANT.

What is your profession ?

BODKIN.

I am a *teacher* of the *word* and a *taylor*.

SCAMPER.

Zounds, Will, it is a methodist.

TIREHACK.

No sure !

D

SCAM-

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SCAMPER.

By the lord Harry, it is.

CLERK.

Silence.

SERJEANT.

Do you know any thing of Fanny the phantom?

BODKIN.

Yea—I do.

SERJEANT.

Can you give any account of her thumpings, scratchings, and flutterings?

BODKIN.

Yea—manifold have been the scratchings, and knockings that I have heard.

SERJEANT.

Name the times.

BODKIN.

I have attended the spirit *Fanny* from the first day of her flutterings, even to the last scratch that she gave.

SERJEANT.

How long may that be?

BODKIN.

Five weeks did she flutter, and six weeks did she scratch.

SCAMPER.

Six weeks—Damn it, I wonder she did not wear out her nails.

CLERK.

Silence.

SERJEANT.

I hope the court is convinced.

COUN-

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COUNSELLOR.

Hold, Master Bodkin, you and I must have a little discourse. A taylor, you say, do you work at your business?

BODKIN.

No—

COUNSELLOR.

Look upon me, look upon the court—Then your present trade is your teaching?

BODKIN.

It is no trade.

COUNSELLOR.

What is it then, a calling?

BODKIN.

No, it is no calling—it is rather—as I may say—a *forcing*—a *compelling*—

COUNSELLOR.

By whom?

BODKIN.

By the spirit that is within me—

SCAMPER.

It is an evil spirit, I believe; and needs must when the devil drives, you know, Will.

TIREHACK.

Right, Harry—

COUNSELLOR.

When did you first feel these spiritual motions?

BODKIN.

In the town of Norwich, where I was born;—One day as I was sitting cross-legged on my shop-board, new seating a cloth pair of breeches of Mr. alderman Crapes—I felt the spirit within me, moving upwards and

D 2

down—

downwards, and this way and that way, and tumbling and jumbling—at first I thought it was the cholic—

COUNSELLOR.

And how are you certain it was not ?

BODKIN.

At last I heard a voice whispering within me, crying, Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach, cast away the things that belong to thee, thy thimble and sheers, and do the things that I bid thee.

COUNSELLOR.

And you did ?

BODKIN.

Yea, verily.

COUNSELLOR.

I think I have heard a little of you, Master Bodkin ; and so you quitted your business, your wife, and your children ?

BODKIN.

I did.

COUNSELLOR.

You did—But then you commun'd with other men's wives ?

BODKIN.

Yea, and with widows, and with maids.

COUNSELLOR.

How came that about, Shadrach ?

BODKIN.

I was moved thereunto by the spirit.

COUNSELLOR.

I should rather think by the flesh—I have been told, friend Bodkin, that twelve became pregnant—

BOD-

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BODKIN.

Thou art deceived—They were barely but nine.

COUNSELLOR.

Why this was an active spirit.

SERGEANT.

But to the point, Mr. Prosequi.

COUNSELLOR.

Well then—you say you have heard those scratchings and knockings?

BODKIN.

Yea—

COUNSELLOR.

But why did you think they came from a spirit?

BODKIN.

Because the very same thumps, scratches, and knocks, I have felt on my breast bone from the spirit within me—

COUNSELLOR.

And these noises you are sure you heard on the first day of January?

BODKIN.

Certain—

SERGEANT.

But to what do all those interrogatories tend?

COUNSELLOR.

To a most material purpose; your worship observes that Bodkin is positive as to the noises made on the first day of January by Fanny the phantom: now if we can prove an *Alibi*, that is, that, on that very day, at that very time, the said Fanny was scratching and flut-

tering any where else, we apprehend that we destroy the credit of this witness—call Peter Paragraph.

CLERK.

Peter Paragraph, come into court.

COUNSELLOR.

This gentleman is an eminent printer, and has collected for the public information, every particular relative to this remarkable story; but as he has the misfortune to have but one leg, your worship will indulge him in the use of a chair.

CLERK.

Peter Paragraph, come into court.

COUNSELLOR. [*Enter Par.*]

Pray, Mr. Paragraph, where was you born?

PARAGRAPH.

Sir, I am a native of Ireland, and born and bred in the city of Dublin.

COUNSELLOR.

When did you arrive in the city of London?

PARAGRAPH.

About the last autumnal equinox: and now I recollect, my *Journal* makes mention of my departure for England, in the Befsborough Packet, Friday October the tenth, N. S. or Stile.

COUNSELLOR.

Oh! Then the Journal is yours?

PARAGRAPH.

Please your worship, it is; and relating thereto I believe I can give you a pleasant conceit—

ceit—Last week I went to visit a *peer*, for I know *peers*, and *peers* know me. Quoth his lordship to me, Mr. Paragraph, with respect to your Journal, I would wish that your paper was whiter, or your ink blacker; quoth I to the peer, by way of *reply*, I hope you will own there is enough for the money; his lordship was pleased to laugh, It was such a pretty repartee, he, he, he, he—

JUSTICE.

Pray, Mr. Paragraph, what might be your business in England?

PARAGRAPH.

Hem—a little love affair, please your worship.

COUNSELLOR.

A wife, I suppose—

PARAGRAPH.

Something tending that way; even so long ago as January 1739-40, there past some amorous glances between us: she is the daughter of old Vamp of the Turnstile; but at that time I stifled my passion, Mrs. Paragraph being then in the land of the living.

COUNSELLOR.

She is now dead?

PARAGRAPH.

Three years and three quarters please your worship: we were exceeding happy together; she was indeed a little apt to be jealous.

COUNSELLOR.

No wonder—

PARAGRAPH.

Yes: they can't help it, poor souls; but not—

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notwithstanding, at her death, I gave her a prodigious good character in my Journal.

COUNSELLOR.

And how proceeds the present affair?

PARAGRAPH.

Just now we are quite at a stand—

COUNSELLOR.

How so?

PARAGRAPH.

The old scoundrel her father has play'd me a slippery trick.

COUNSELLOR.

Indeed!

PARAGRAPH.

As he could give no money in hand, I agreed to take her *fortune* in *copies*; I was to have the Wits *Vade Mecum* entire; four hundred of News from the Invisible World in sheets; all that remained of Glanvil upon Witches; Hill's Bees, Bardana, Brewing, and Balsam of Honey; and three eighths of Robinson Crusoe.

COUNSELLOR.

A pretty fortune!

PARAGRAPH.

Yes; they are things that stir in the trade; but you must know that we agreed to go halves in Fanny the Phantom. But whilst I and two authors, whom I had hir'd to ask questions, at nine shillings a night, were taking notes of the knockings at the house of Mr. Parsons himself, that old rascal Vamp had privately printed off a thousand eighteen-penny scratchings, purchased of two metho-
dist

dist preachers, at the public house over the way—

COUNSELLOR.

Now we come to the point—look upon this evidence; was he present at Mr. Parsons's knockings?

PARAGRAPH.

Never; this is one of the rascally methodists—Harkee, fellow, how could you be such a scoundrel to sell for genuine your counterfeit scratchings to Vamp?

BODKIN.

My scratchings were the true scratchings.

PARAGRAPH.

Why, you lying son of a whore, did not I buy all my materials from the girl's father himself.

BODKIN.

What the spirit commanded, that did I.

PARAGRAPH.

What spirit?

BODKIN.

The spirit within me.—

PARAGRAPH.

If I could but get at you, I would soon try what sort of a spirit it is—stop you villain.

[Exit BODKIN.]

The rogue has made his escape—I will but dog him, to find out his haunts, and then return for a warrant—his scratchings, a scoundrel; I will have justice, or I'll turn his tabernacle into a pigstye.

[Exit Par.
COUN-

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COUNSELLOR.

I hope, please your worship, we have sufficiently established our *Alibi*.

JUSTICE.

You are unquestionably entitled to a jury of ghosts.

COUNSELLOR.

Mr. Serjeant, you will provide us a list ?

SERJEANT.

Let us see—you have no objection to sir George Villars ; the evil genius of Brutus ; the ghost of Banquo ; Mrs. Veal.

COUNSELLOR.

We object to a woman—your worship.—

JUSTICE.

Why, it is not the practice ; this, it must be own'd, is an extraordinary case. But however, if, on conviction, the panthom should plead pregnancy, Mrs. Veal will be admitted on the jury of matrons.

SERJEANT.

I thank your worship : then the court is adjourned.

[Terence and Dermot in an upper box.

TERENCE.

By my shoul, but I will spake.

DERMOT.

Arrha, be quiet, Terence.

TERENCE.

Dibble burn me but I will ; hut, hut, not spake what should ail me ; harkee you, Mr. Justice.—

SCAMPRR.

Hollo, What's the matter now, Will ?

DERMOT.

DERMOT.

Leave off, honey Terence, now you are well—

TERENCE.

Dermot, be easy.—

SCAMPER.

Hear him—

TIREHACK.

Hear him—

TERENCE.

Ay, hear him, hear him; why the matter is this Mr. Justice, that little hopping fellow there, that Dublin Journal man is as great a liar as ever was born—

TIREHACK.

How so?—

TERENCE.

Ay prithee don't bodder me; what, dy'e learn no more manners at Oxford college than to stop a gentleman in the midst of his speech before he begins; oh for shame of yourself— Why the matter is this, Mr. Justice, that there, what the dibble d'ye call him Pra-Pra-ragraf, but by my shoul that is none of his name neither, I know the little bastard as well as myself; as to Fanny the phantom, long life to the poor gentlewoman, he knows no more of her than the mother that bore her—

SUDS.

Indeed! good lord, you surprize me?

TERENCE.

Arrha now, honey Suds, spake when you are spoke to; you ar'nt upon the jury, my jewel

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jewel now ; by my shoul your are a little too fat for a ghoff.

TIREHACK.

Prithee, friend Ephraim, let him go on ; let's hear a little what he would be at—

TERENCE.

I fay he knows nothing about the case that is litigated here, d'ye see, at all, at all ; because why I hant ha been from Dublin above four weeks, or a month ; and I saw him in his shop every day ; so that how could he be here and there too ? unless indeed he used to fly backwards and forwards, and that you see is impossible, because why he has got a wooden leg.

SCAMPER.

What the devil is the fellow about ?

TIREHACK.

I smoak him—harkee, Terence, who do you take that lame man to be ?

TERENCE.

Oh my jewel, I know him well enough sure by his parson, for all he thought to conceal himself by changing his name—

SCAMPER.

Why, it is Foote, you fool.

TERENCE.

Arrha, who ?

TIREHACK.

Foote.

TERENCE.

Fot, what the lecture-man ? Pa—

TIREHACK.

Yes.

TER.

TERENCE.

Arrah, be easy, honey—

SCAMPER.

Nay, enquire of Suds.

SUDS.

Truly I am minded 'twas he.

TERENCE.

Your humble-servant yourself, Mr. Suds, by my shoul, I'll wager you three thirteens to a rap, that it is no such matter at all, at all.

SCAMPER.

Done—and be judg'd by the company.

TERENCE.

Done—I'll ask the Orator himself—here he comes ; [*Enter Foote*] Harkee, honey Fot, was it yourself that was happing about here but now.

FOOTE.

I have heard your debate, and must give judgment against you—

TERENCE.

What, yourself, yourself !

FOOTE.

It was—

TERENCE.

Then faith I have lost my thirteens—
Arrha, but Fot, my jewel, why are you after playing such pranks to bring an honest gentleman into company where he is nat—
But what, is this selling of lectures a thriving profession ?

FOOTE.

I can't determine as yet; the public have been very indulgent ; I have not long open'd.

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TER-

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TERENCE.

By my shoul, if it answers, will you be my pupil, and learn me the trade?

FOOTE.

Willingly.—

TERENCE.

That's an honest fellow, long life to you, lad. *(sits down.)*

Enter M'GEORGE.

M'GEORGE.

Here is doctor Friscano without.

FOOTE.

Friscano—who is he?

M'GEORGE.

The German physician from James-street.

FOOTE.

Well; what is his business with me?

M'GEORGE.

He is in danger of losing his trade.

FOOTE.

How so?

M'GEORGE.

He says, last summer, things went on glibly enough, for then he had the market all to himself; but this year there is an Italian fellow started up in the garden, that with his face and grimace has taken all his patients away:

FOOTE.

That's hard.

M'GEORGE.

Dreadful—if you was to hear the poor man's terrible tale you would really be moved to compassion: he says that his bleeding won't find

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find him in bread ; and as the tooth trade, excepting two stumps, for six-pence a piece, 'tis a month since he looked in a mouth—

FOOTE.

How can I help him ?

M' GEORGE.

Why, he thinks oratory will do all with the English ; and if you would but teach him to talk, he should soon get his custom again—

FOOTE.

Can he read ?

M' GEORGE.

Oh Lord ! poor man, no.

FOOTE.

Well let him attend here on—

M' GEORGE.

He hopes you will quickly dispatch him, for if he finds he can't do as a doctor, he intends to return to the curing of horses again.

FOOTE.

Well, tell him that he may rest assured, he shall either bleed or shoe in a fortnight.

[Exit M' George.]

FOOTE.

Having thus compleated our lecture on the eloquence peculiar to the bar, we shall produce one great group of orators, in which will be exhibited specimens of every branch of the art. You will have at one view, the choleric, the placid, the voluble, the frigid, the frothy, the turgid, the calm, and the clamorous ; and as a proof of our exquisite skill, our subjects are not such as a regular education has prepared for the reception of this sublime

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science, but a set of illiterate mechanics, whom you are to suppose assembled at the Robin-hood in the Butcher-row, in order to discuss and adjust the various systems of Europe ; but particularly to determine the separate interest of their own mother country.

The End of the SECOND ACT.

ACT



A C T III.

SCENE, *The Robin Hood.*

The PRESIDENT.

Dermot O'Droheda, *a Chairman*; Tim Twist, *a Taylor*; Strap, *a Shoemaker*; Anvil, *a Smith*; Sam. Slaughter, *a Butcher*; Catchpole, *a Bailiff*. All with Pewter Pots before them.

PRESIDENT.

SILENCE, gentlemen; are your pots replenished with porter?

A L L.

Full, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT.

We will then proceed to the business of the day; and let me beg, gentlemen, that you will, in your debates, preserve that decency

and decorum that is due to the importance of your deliberations, and the dignity of this illustrious assembly—

[Gets up, pulls of his hat and reads the motion.]

Motion made last Monday to be debated to-day, “That, for the future, instead of that vulgar potation called porter, the honourable members may be supplied with a proper quantity of Irish usquebagh.

“Dermot O’Droheda ✕ his mark.”

O’DROHEDA *[gets up.]*

That’s I myself.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. O’Droheda,

O’DROHEDA.

Mr. President, the case is this; it is not because I am any grate lover of that same usquebagh that I have set my mark to the motion: but because I did not think it was decent for a number of gentlemen that were, d’ye see, met to settle the affairs of the nation, to be guzling a pot of porter; to be sure the liquor is a pretty sort of a liquor enough when a man is hot with trotting between a couple of poles; but this is another guess matter, because why, the head is concerned, and if it was not for the malt and the haps, dibble burn me but I would as soon take a drink from the Thames as your porter. But as to usquebagh; ah long life to the liquor—it is an exhilarator of the bowels, and a stomatic to the head; I say, Mr. President, it invigorates, it stimulates, it—in short it is the onliest liquor of life, and no man alive will die whilst he drinks it.

[Sits]

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[Sits down. Twist gets up, having a paper, containing the heads of what he says in his bat.]

P R E S I D E N T.

Mr. Timothy Twist.

T I M T W I S T.

Mr. President, I second Mr. O'Drogheda's motion, and, sir, give me leave—I say, Mr. President—[looks in his bat] give me leave to observe that, sir, tho' it is impossible to add any force to what has been advanced by my honourable friend in the straps; yet, sir [looks into his bat again.] It may, sir, I say be necessary to obviate some objections that may be made to the motion, and first, it may be thought—I say, sir, some gentlemen may think, that this may prove pernicious to our manufacture—[looks in his bat] and the duty doubtless it is of every member of this illustrious assembly to have a particular eye unto that, but Mr. President—sir—[looks in his bat, is confused and sits down.]

P R E S I D E N T.

Mr. Twist, O pray finish, Mr. Twist.

T W I S T. [gets up.]

I say, Mr. President, that, sir, if, sir, it be considered that—as—I say—[looks in his bat] I have nothing farther to say. [Sits down, and Strap gets up.]

P R E S I D E N T.

Mr. Strap.

S T R A P.

Mr. President, it was not my intention to trouble the assembly upon this occasion, but when

when I hear insinuations thrown out by gentlemen, where the interest of this country is so deeply concerned, I own I cannot sit silent; and give me leave to say, sir, there never came before this assembly a point of more importance than this; it strikes, sir, at the very root, sir, of your constitution; for, sir, what does this motion imply? it implies that porter, a wholesome domestic manufacture, is to be prohibited at once, and for what, sir? for a foreign pernicious commodity. I had, sir, formerly the honour, in conjunction with my learned friend in the leather apron, to expel sherbet from amongst us, as I looked upon lemons as a fatal and foreign fruit; and can it be thought, sir, that I will sit silent to this? No, sir, I will put my shoulders strongly against it, I will oppose it *manibus totibus*. For should this proposal prevail, it will not end here: fatal, give me leave to say, will I foresee be the issue; and I shan't be surprised, in a few days, to hear from the same quarter, a motion for the expulsion of gin, and a premium for the importation of whisky.

[A hum of approbation, with significant nods and winks from the other members. He sits down, and Anvil and another member get up together; some cry Anvil, others Jacobs.]

P R E S I D E N T.

Mr. Anvil.

A N V I L.

Mr. President, sir—

[The

*[The members all blow their noses and cough ;
Anvil talks all the while, but is not heard.]*

PRESIDENT.

Silence, gentlemen, pray gentlemen. A worthy member is up.

A N V I L.

I say, Mr. President, that if we consider this case in its utmost extent—*[all the members cough and blow their noses again]* I say, sir, I will. Nay, I insist on being heard. If any gentleman has any thing to say any where else, I'll hear him.

[Members all laugh, and Anvil sits down in a passion, and Slaughter gets up.]

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Samuel Slaughter.

S L A U G H T E R.

Sir, I declare it, at the bare hearing of this here motion, I am all over in a sweat ; for my part I can't think what gentlemen mean by talking in that there manner ; not but I likes that every man should deliver his mind ; I does mine, it has been ever my way, and when a member opposes me I like him the better for it, it's right, I am pleas'd, he can't please me more, it is as it should be, and tho' I differ from the honourable gentleman in the flannel night-cap over the way, yet I am pleased to hear him say what he thinks ; for, sir, as I said, it is always my rule to say what I think, right or wrong—*[a loud laugh]* ay, ay, gentlemen may laugh, with all my heart, I am used to it, I don't mind it a farthing, but, sir, with regard to that there motion, I entirely

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tirely agree with my worthy friend with the pewter pot at his mouth. Now, sir, I would fain ask any gentleman this here question, can any thing in nature be more natural for an Englishman than porter? I declare, Mr. President, I think it the most wholesomest liquor in the world. But if it must be a change, let us change it for rum, a wholesome palatable liquor, a liquor that—in short, Mr. President, I don't know such a liquor. Ay, gentlemen may stare; I say, and I say it upon my conscience, I don't know such a liquor. Besides, I think there is in this here affair a point of law, which I shall leave to the consideration of the learned, and for that there reason, I shall take up no more of your time.

[He sets down, Catchpole gets up.]

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Catchpole.

CATCHPOLE.

I get up to the point of law. And tho', sir, I am bred to the business, I can't say I am prepared for this question. But tho' this usquebaugh as a dram may not (by name) be subject to a duty, yet it is my opinion, or rather belief, it will be consider'd, as in the case of horses, to come under the article of dry'd goods—But I move that another day this point be debated.

SLAUGHTER.

I second the motion.

[Catchpole gives a paper to the president, who reads it.]

PRESIDENT.

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PRESIDENT.

Hear your motion.

“ That it be debated next Thursday, whether the dram usquebaugh is subject to a particular duty ; or, in the case of horses, to be considered under the article of dry’d goods.”

A L L.

Agreed, agreed.

FOOT E.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, having produced to you glaring proofs of our great ability in every species of oratory, having manifested in the persons of our pupils, our infinite address in conveying our knowledge to others, we shall close our morning’s lecture, instituted for the public good, with a proposal for the particular improvement of individuals. We are ready to give private instructions to any reverend gentleman in his probationary sermon for a lectureship ; to young barristers who have causes to open, or motions to make ; to all candidates for the sock or buskin ; or to the new members of any of those oratorical societies with which this metropolis is at present so plentifully stock’d.

F I N I S.

THE GAZETTE

RESOLUTION

That your committee have the honor to inform the House that the bill for the amendment of the law relating to the sale of horses, &c. has been introduced in the House of Commons, and that the same is now under consideration.

Agreed, agreed.

FOOT

and now, ladies and gentlemen, having
been to the rising of the House, and
having given notice of the bill, I am
happy to say that the bill has been
introduced in the House of Commons,
and that the same is now under
consideration. I am, ladies and
gentlemen, very much obliged to you
for the interest which you have taken
in the subject, and I am sure that
you will be very much interested to
know that the bill has been introduced
in the House of Commons, and that
the same is now under consideration.

FINIS

